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**INTERNATIONAL LITERARY RELATIONS:
ORIENTALISM & OCCIDENTALISM
CROSSCULTURAL THEORIES OF CULTURAL IDENTITY**

Comparative Literature/English
Spring, 1993

Lucien Miller Class: Wed: 4:00-6:30, Herter 118
316 South College, 545-0832 Office Hours: Mon 1-2. Tu 11-12

Theories of identity and difference, and the psychology of East-West colonialism, studied in relation to literary texts from China, India, Japan, Europe, and America. From the eighteenth century on: Western writers as diverse as Goethe, Flaubert, Kipling, Ezra Pound, Calvino, Marguerite Duras, and Maxine Hong Kingston have portrayed different versions of the "East," while in the twentieth century Asian writers like Mishima, Lu Hsun and R. K. Narayan have been both attracted to Westernization and repelled by its contamination. Topics include travel literature, literary canon, post colonialism, translation and culture, woman as other.

As we study Orientalism as a Western reading of Asian cultures, and its counterpart in the Far East, Occidentalism, we try to move beyond to a theory of alterity.

Requirements:

- 2 Critiques [2 pages each] on assigned reading
- 2 Commentaries [oral] on other student's Critique
- Intro Paper, 6 pages (Mar 3) Orientalism and Wisdom Literature
- Term Paper prospectus (ungraded, Mar 24, post Spring vacation)
- 1 page description list of readings and theory/criticism
- Oral Report on Term Paper
- Term Paper 25 pages (May 17)

Guest speakers: lectures on East-West literary relations and Asia.

Texts (available at Jeffrey Amherst Books, 55 S Pleasant St., 413-253-3381):

- Barbara Miller, trans. *Bhagavad-Gita*
- Thomas Merton, *Way of Chuang Tzu*.
- A. K. Ramanujan, *Speaking of Silva*
- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*
- A. K. Ramanujan, *Interior Landscape*
- Roland Barthes, *Empire of Signs*
- Marguerite Duras, *The Lover*
- Amy Tan, *The Kitchen God's Wife*
- Gosh, *Shadowlines*

Xerox selections from:

- Edward Said, *Orientalism*
- Bernard Lewis, ed. *As Others See Us*
- Ivan Morris trans., *Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*
- Ezra Pound, *The Chinese Written Character as a Medium for Poetry*
- Barbara Johnson, *The Critical Difference and A World of Difference*
- David Kinsley, *The Sword and the Flute*
- Ronald Latham trans., *Marco Polo*
- Mary Campbell, *The Witness and the Other World*
- James Clifford ed., *Waiting Culture*
- Robert von Haiberg ed., *Canons*
- Hugh Kenner, "The Making of the Modernist Canon"
- William Naff, "The Empire of Signs"
- Shuichi Kato, *History of Japanese Literature*
- Takao Hagiwara, "Innocence and the Other World" [on Miyazawa Kenji],
- Tzvetan Todorov, *Conquest of America*
- Masao Miyoshi, *Postmodernism and Japan*
- Gayatri Spivak, *In Other Worlds*
- Trinh Minh-ha, *Woman Native Other*

SCHEDULE

Jan 27 Introduction; Orientalism, Occidentalism, and Alterity; Bai slides

I. The Rising and Setting Sun: Orientalism and Occidentalism

Feb 3 Orientalism; Reading: Said, *Orientalism* (Xerox) first 100 pages

Feb 10 Occidentalism & the Criticism of Orientalism; Reading: Lewis, ed., *As Others See Us*, selected essays (X); Criticism of Said, selected essays (X)

II. "Wisdom" East & West and Its Western Interpreters

Feb 17 Thoreau, *Walden*, and the *Gita*; Reading: *Bhagavad-Gita*, trans. Barbara Miller; Miller essay, "Why Did Thoreau take the Gita to Walden Pond?" (end of *Gita*); C. D. Verma, *The Gita in World Literature*, selected essays (X); Josna Rege, essay on western reception of *Gita* (X)

Note: Wed is a Monday (holiday), but we'll keep class on Wed

Feb 22 Thomas Merton & the "East;" Reading: *Way of Chuang Tzu and Introduction*, by Merton John Wu essay on Merton and East (X); Burton Watson, trans. Chuang Tzu passages to Merton's Chuang Tzu (X); Chuang Tzu text in Chinese (X)

Note: class on Monday, Feb. 22, as instructor away Feb 23-28

III. Representations versus "The Real" East

Mar 3 Divine, Erotic, and Exotic Love; Reading: Ramanujan, *Speaking of Siva*, Kopf essay in *As Others See Us* (X); excerpts from Kinsley, *Sword & Flute* (X)

Introductory Paper due

Mar 10 Imagining the "East" and the "West": Travel Literature; Reading: Calvino, *Invisible Cities* Mary Campbell, Introduction and chapter 3 "The Utter East" from *Witness and the Other World IX*]; excerpts from *Marco Polo*, trans. Ronald Latham (X)

Term Paper conferences this week, Mar 8-12

Spring vacation, March 13-21

IV. High and Low Literature: East-West concepts of Canonicity

Mar 24 Canonical?; Reading: *Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*, selections (X); Shulchi Kato, *History of Japanese Literature*, essay on *Pillow Book*

Term Paper Prospectus Due

Mar 31 Non-Canonical?; Reading: Miller, ed., *Yunnan Tales* (X); Miyazawa Kenji, *Winds from Afar*, Bestor trans., selections (X) or *Night Train of the Milky Way Railway*, Strong trans. Hagiwara, "Innocence and the Other World" (on MIC)

V. Translation and Culture

Apr 7 The Native Informant; Reading: Yip, *Hiding the Universe*, selections (X); "What Is a Translation?" Fenollosa, *Chinese Written Character*

Apr 14 The Foreign Inventor; Reading: Barthes, *Empire of Signs*; Naff, "Empire of Signs" (X)

VI. Ethnicity and Migrant Literature

Apr 21 Colonial and Non Colonial; Reading: Gosh, *Shadowlines*; Ch'en Ying-chen, *Exiles at Home*, Miller trans., selections (X); Todorof, *The Conquest of America*, selections (X)

Apr 28 Migrant Literature; Reading: Amy Tan, *The Kitchen God's Wife*; Fischer, "Ethnicity and the Post Modern Arts of Memory" from *Writing Culture* (X)

May 5 Elite and Subaltern Women; Reading: Marguerite Duras, *The Lover* plus film text; Trinh Minh-ha, *Woman Native Other*, selections (X)

Reports on Term Papers

May 12 Last Class: Reports on Term Papers

TERM PAPER DUE May 1

644 Xerox Spring 1993

(in reading order)

- Said, *Orientalism*
- Criticism of Said's *Orientalism*
- Lewis, ed., *As Others See Us*
- Verma, *The Gita in World Literature*

- Josna Rege, "Western Reception of Gita"
- Ching-hsiung Win (John Wu), *Chinese Humanism and Christian Spirituality*
- Burton Watson, *Chuang Tzu*
- *Chuang Tzu* (Chinese text)
- Kopf, "Sexual Ambivalence" in *As Others See Us*
- Kinsley, *The Sword and the Flute*
- Campbell, Intro and chapter 3 *Witness and the Other World*
- Ronald Latham, trans., *Marco Polo*
- *Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*
- Kato, *History of Japanese Literature* (essay on *Pillow Book*)
- Miyazawa Kenji, *Winds from Afar*
- Hagiwara, "Innocence and the "Other World: Tales of Miyazawa Kenji"
- Kato, *History of Japanese Literature* (essay on Miyazawa Kenji)
- Yip, *Hiding the Universe* (Wang Wei poems)
- "What is a Translation?" Fenollosa, (ed. Ezra Pound) *The Chinese Written Character*
- Naff, "Empire of Signs" (critique of Barthes' book)
- Ch'en Ying-chen, *Elles at Home*
- Todorof, *The Conquest of America*
- Fischer, "Ethnicity and the Post Modern Arts of Memory" from *Writing Culture*
- Trinh Minh-ha, *Woman Native Other*